Philip Agee on high tech surveillance and PROMIS software (1993)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO54xIqIvDo (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oO54xIqIvDo)

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Cut from original: https://www.pacificaradioarchives.org/recording/az1026 and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMTDov4Xms4
Program Title: The Persecution Of Philip Agee
PRA Archive #: AZ1026
Description: The Persecution Of Philip Agee. - Speech which traces the government persecution of former CIA agent Philip Agee following the publication of his book about the CIA in 1975. Traces the attempts to assassinate him, his life in exile, life on the run, the history of a National Intelligence Service, covert actions, and the Cold War. - BROADCAST: KPFA, 13 May 1993.

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regions like latin america other places are so basically unfair there are so few people who are inordinately wealthy so many people who have no hope at all and it's worse now in latin america i i can hardly believe it but it's worse now in latin america than it was when i went down there 32 years ago in 1960 at the end of the eisenhower administration it is worse now even than it was then and then it was appalling the cia will in other words be working with the security and intelligence services of other countries and one way they're going to be doing it is through high technology there is a book on the table back there by arie ben minashi a it just came out three weeks ago it is called the prophets of war ben manashi was an officer in the israeli military intelligence service for 12 years and he was involved at the highest level in some very very interesting things it is probably the most sensational book that's come out this year although it is not receiving the proper attention it deserves in the u.s information media but ben monashi it's a very long story who he is and the controversy surrounding him for the last uh two or three years but one of the things we owe to him is gratitude for having outlined how the promise software developed by the innslaw company was marketed around the world to intelligence and security services when i was in the agency i was in charge in two latin american countries of what we called first the links list links as in the animal the links list was a uh a series of files on all of the most uh important political activists of the left in the host country i did it first in ecuador and then in uruguay but all the countries of latin america and i'm sure all the third world countries had the requirement on the cia stations which came from headquarters to keep this uh list up to date what it

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to keep this uh list up to date what it amounted to were files on the individuals names place and date of birth biographic information in other words uh synopsis of the political activity of the person which was constant constantly being updated up-to-date photograph uh where the family lived where the uh man or woman worked where the spouse worked where children went to school where they took their leisure activities where they are reliably or liable to go to hide in a period of crisis all of those things and some officer in my case i was a junior officer at the time i had to keep these uh different files up to date and it was all in spanish

for quick turnover to the local police and security authorities so that these people could be rounded up on mass and we use this information in ecuador for one example in 1963 when a whole series of our operations came to fruition as they should have and resulted in a military coup against the elected civilian government there was a military junta immediately in place and we were turning over this information i was to the local security authorities that was one of my jobs and they in turn were rounding up people by the hundreds and putting them in jail very similar information would have been used in chile uh in the aftermath of the pinochet coup in 1973 and there could be many more examples in el salvador during the 1980s i'm certain that this was done by the cia with the salvadoran security forces well what i was doing in the 60s was all by hand it was before computers or certainly before microcomputers and the development of the software to make it all computerized but in the late 1960s a man named bill hamilton in the national security agency developed a program for use in tracking people and he left the national

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tracking people and he left the national security agency of took over a nonprofit company named inslaw you many of you will have been following the inn's law scandal and he further developed and enhanced this program called promise p-r-o-m-i-s stands for prosecutors information management management information system and he then sold it to the justice department justice took it refused to pay him there was a court suit that followed and i'm not going to go into the details because what is important is that this program was a development of what i was doing with the links list or what was later known as the name change to subversive control watch list and ben minashi writes in his book how the israelis got this program from earl bryan the former secretary of health services here in uh california during reagan the reagan period as governor uh brian was uh marketing it around the world the israelis also marketed around marketed it around the world through another private so-called private individual i.e robert maxwell the tycoon who owned the uh mirror interests in britain and who later was killed but manashi certain that he was killed that he didn't commit suicide when he fell off his yacht but in any case in any case what happens is the israelis provide this software to the guatemalan government in 1984. now what does this system do it means that disparate databases can all be made to interface and that the formats can be made compatible through this very high tech advanced software it means that for a list of individuals everything about them can be put into the same computer program from the water company lists to the

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from the water company lists to the telephone company records to the electric company records all the utilities bank records uh travel records for example all the airline reservation systems trains buses everything you can imagine and of course the national identity registration documents in guatemala in order to make this work they got new ibm computers and they did a new census of the whole country and they issued a new system of identity card identity document then they train they train the security forces and the army to use a very elementary computer terminal which they installed all over the country and in bus stations at airports even roadblocks in the most remote places and this was the period of the greatest political repression in guatemala in history it was the period of the general mejia victores who was uh calling himself president at the time well the israelis and the cia created trap doors into this program trapdoors meaning a way through modems in which they could have access to the computers of the host intelligence or security service they tried it first with the jordanians and as soon as it was installed through the trapdoor program the israelis were reading all the files of the jordanian military intelligence service and of course the principal target of the jordanians were the palestinians which were the israelis principle targets and so they were able to collect enormous amount of information by monitoring what the jordanians were doing through this promise software the same thing happened in guatemala the israelis were able with the cia to monitor the way the guatemalan security services were using promise in the political repression well about five nights ago in new york city i was with beminashi and we were with my son and a friend of

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and we were with my son and a friend of his a woman refugee from guatemala who's been in this country for about a year she's a graduate psychologist who had been working for years with the street children in guatemala you know the police have been killing them right and left there are some 7 000 homeless children on the streets of guatemala many of them the children of people who have been disappeared by the guatemalan security services she was threatened with assassination she refused to leave then they threatened her children then she did leave and she was sitting there as bamanashi was describing this mid-1980s set up in which there were all of these checkpoints all over the country and the little com the uh the terminals to this promise software stuff in computers and of course he said that the israelis knew that as they monitor monitored that system over a period of a little less than two years from the installation of the program in 1984 until late 1986 21 732 guatemalans were murdered identified located and murdered under the system well this woman of course started to cry the tears started to come down her face and she began to weep because she said that so many of her friends the best people that she'd ever known in her life had disappeared even people in a wheelchair she gave two examples were disappeared they just wiped off the face of the earth and never found again this is something for the future it is obviously a development of what i was doing on the links list and the subversive control watch list in the 1960s but developed into the highest possible technology with computers and software and this promised system has been sold around the world by the c i a through earl bryan and by the israelis through robert maxwell before he died because those two had companies in which they

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those two had companies in which they could make it appear to be a commercial transaction and the buying companies would never know that that trapdoor existed well it was sold to the british the canadians the south koreans the australians iraq also that's by earl bryan on the side of the cia and by maxwell for the israelis to brazil chile colombia nicaragua soviet union where they got into the files of soviet military intelligence in the 1980s the gru other countries as well well just imagine what that would mean for the united states for us living in this country bank records every time you make a deposit to the bank or you draw a check all that can be put into it so that it is the ultimate really the ultimate big brother system that anyone could imagine and certainly if the united states developed this program it's in think it's unthinkable that they don't have it in the system here in the united states to use on whoever whomever they want to and i've had experience in the past where i have flown for example from hamburg to madrid spain it's a two and a half hour flight and i have tested the system and i have told no one i was going i have not made any reservation i've gone out to the airport bought my ticket in cash and put my true name in as the passenger and two and a half hours later when i get off in madrid the cars are following it works like that it works automatically once your name goes into the international airline computer system it pops out if you're on the watch list well that is something that can be applied here of course in the united states with no trouble at all

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